

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 000715

FOL REPEAT OF NEW DELHI 035 TO SECSTATE JAN 2

QTE

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 0035

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN

SUBJECT: HINDU ARTICLE ON POSSIBLE US ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI FROM MADRAS JAN 02 IS REPEATED

QUOTE

MADRAS 0001

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: HINDU ARTICLE ON POSSIBLE U.S. ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT ARTICLE BY EASWAR SAGAR (DATELINED
WASHINGTON JANUARY 1) WHICH APPEARED ON FRONT PAGE
OF MADRAS HINDU MORNING JANUARY 2 UNDER 2-COLUMN HEADING
" 'STUDIES' IN PENTAGON ON ARMS SUPPLY TO PAK.":

"THERE ARE RECURRING REPORTS OF THE PRESENCE OF A

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GROUP OF OFFICIALS IN THE PENTAGON AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT

MOSTLY AT THE MIDDLE AND LOWER ECHELONS WHO HAVE BEEN URGING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO RESUME ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN.

FROM TIME TO TIME THEY ARE UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE PREPARED A SERIES OF WHAT ARE NOW KNOWN AS 'STUDIES' WHOSE THEME IS THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO KEEP PAKISTAN SATISFIED WITH ARMS SALES AND NOT ARMS AID, ON CONCESSIONAL TERMS.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE, DR. KISSINGER, IS SAID TO BE AWARE OF THESE PRO-PAKISTANI STIRRINGS IN THE 'LOWER DECKS' OF THE TWO DEPARTMENTS, BUT SO FAR HE IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN PREVENTING THESE STUDIES FROM TRAVELLING HIGHER AND REACHING PRESIDENT FORD'S DESK. BUT KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES HERE SAY THAT THERE IS NO CERTAINTY THAT DR. KISSINGER WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO DO THIS, NOW THAT HIS PRESTIGE AND POWER IN THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOT AS HIGH AS IT WAS, DUE TO A NUMBER OF CIRCUMSTANCES. THE PENTAGON UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, MR. SCHLESINGER, HAS NOT ALWAYS SEEN EYE-TO-EYE WITH DR. KISSINGER'S STATE DEPARTMENT.

ALSO THOUGH SENIOR INDIAN OFFICIALS ARE ABLE TO HAVE THEIR VIEWS HEARD IN MOST PARTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS, THEY HAVE RELATIVELY LITTLE ACCESS TO THE SENIOR POLICY-MAKERS IN THE PENTAGON--HISTORICALLY THIS AREA OF THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ALWAYS COME UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF PAKISTAN.

IN ANY EVENT PAKISTAN WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE ITS PLEA FOR NEW ARMS DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT FORD WHEN

MR. BHUTTO ARRIVES HERE ON HIS NEXT VISIT IN FEBRUARY--ONE THEORY IS THAT MR. BHUTO WILL TRY TO STAGE A CLAIM FOR U.S. ARMS BY PERSUADING THE MILITARY EXPERTS HERE THAT PAKISTAN IS VITAL TO THE U.S. GLOBAL PLANS, LYING AS IT DOES AT THE EASTERN EXTREMITY OF CENTO.

OFFICIAL U.S. POLICY, MEANWHILE, CONTINUES TO BE UNCLASSIFIED

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CIRCUMSCRIBED BY ITS FREQUENTLY REITERATED PUBLIC STATEMENTS, THAT THE U.S. HAS NO INTENTION OF STARTING AN ARMS RACE IN THE SUBCONTINENT, BUT THAT AT THE SAME TIME ITS ARMS POLICY IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION IS UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW-- A PHRASE WHICH SEEMS CALCULATED TO KEEP INDIA ON TENTERHOOKS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME RAISING VAGUE EXPECTATIONS IN PAKISTAN.

WHAT INDIA IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT IS THE FLOW OF
U.S. ARMS TO SOME OF THE PERSIAN GULF STATES, WHICH MAY
TRANSFER THEM TO PAKISTAN--THOUGH INDIA HAS FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED
THIS FEAR TO THE U.S., THE LATTER SEEMS MORE CONCERNED
ABOUT THEIR BEING USED IN AN ARAB WAR AGAINST ISRAEL.

SENIOR INDIAN OFFICIALS GENERALLY FEEL THAT THE
ASSURANCE DR. KISSINGER GAVE TO INDIA WHILE IN DELHI,
INCOMPLETE THOUGH THEY WERE IN SCOPE, ARE GENUINE AND
SERIOUS. BUT THEY DO NOT ALTOGETHER RULE OUT
SCENARIO
WHERE THE U.S. MAY BEGIN RESUPPLYING PAKISTAN WITH ARMS.

'IF THAT EVER HAPPENS, THEN WE CAN KISS GOODBYE
TO THE PROSPECT OF INDO-U.S. RAPPROCHEMENTS', SAYS
ONE COMPETENT SOURCE. SIGNED EAVES UNQTE MOYNIHAN
UNQTE INGERSOLL

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